

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 37 (Cancelled).

38.(Currently amended) Apparatus for producing ~~[[a]]~~ stranded metal ~~cable~~ cables of different gauge, comprising ~~a supply of metal wires all of the same initial cross-sectional area~~, equipment for assembling ~~the metal~~ wires for cable formation from a supply of such metal wires all of the same initial cross-sectional area, and a machine for stranding the wires into a cable, the apparatus comprising at least two adjustable or replaceable rolling passes ~~roll sets~~ positioned between said supply and said stranding machine, each ~~rolling pass~~ roll set being configured for separately rolling each wire to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by an amount less than that at which brittleness of the wires is caused.

39. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each ~~rolling pass~~ roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 40% ~~by each roll set immediately prior to advancement of the wires to the machine for stranding the wires into cable.~~

40. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each ~~rolling pass~~ roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 30% ~~by each pass immediately prior to advancement of the wires to the machine for stranding the wires into cable.~~

41. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each ~~rolling pass~~ roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 25% ~~by each pass immediately prior to advancement of the wires to the machine for stranding the wires into cable.~~

42. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, having just two ~~rolling passes~~ roll sets for each wire.

43. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, having three ~~rolling passes~~ roll sets for each wire.

44. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, including means for axially rotating the wires between the ~~rolling passes~~ roll sets.

45.(Original): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said means for axially rotating the wires rotates the wires through an angle of 45 to 135°.